



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Bob Cherry**

200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

## 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
INDIANA HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES



# 2009

## Legislative Wrap-Up



PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB CHERRY  
200 W. WASHINGTON ST.  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

What important issues are facing our community today, in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail me your thoughts to [h53@iga.in.gov](mailto:h53@iga.in.gov), post your comments on my Web site at [www.in.gov/h53](http://www.in.gov/h53), or return this card with your comments below.

Sign me up for your e-mail updates.

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would like to subscribe to my online newsletter, please go to my Web site at**

**<http://www.in.gov/h53/>**

# Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers and public education.

*Although the budget is a bipartisan compromise, with all 48 House Republicans voting for it, our principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:*

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, along with House and Senate Republicans, outlined those standards early in the process and did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding. The "education trigger" would also allot 50 percent of state revenue to education when income exceeds revenue projections.

*Statewide public education receives what I believe is solid support:*

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at rapidly growing public schools.
- The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding is authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including Indiana University Southeast, Purdue University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.
- The state's higher education scholarship grants program receives increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

I believe this is the right budget for Indiana right now, and that's why I voted for it.



*Rep. Sean Eberhart and Rep. Cherry having a discussion.*



*Rep. Cherry talking with a student page.*

## The Children's Home

As soon as the special session adjourned, I began receiving phone calls asking me why I supported a budget that didn't include funding for the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home. I voted "Yes" because I believe it was the best option for House District 53 and families across Indiana. Since then, I have worked with other legislators on a program to track students from the home to ensure their safety and well-being in their home communities.

## Honoring Our Veterans

This session, we were able to honor our Hoosier heroes who have sacrificed so much for us by granting all Hoosier Purple Heart recipients free tuition to state colleges and universities. Previously, the law provided tuition only to those who received the Purple Heart after Sept. 10, 2001, and the children of all Purple Heart recipients.

## Helping Our Young Drivers

This new law limits distractions for our newest, most inexperienced drivers by banning drivers

under 18 from using a cell phone or texting, except for emergency calls, while driving. It also sets limits on when they may carry passengers.

## Displaying School Zone Signs

I authored a bill this session to require school zone signs be properly displayed in each school zone area to warn motorists passing through. Many Indiana schools already have signs displayed, but we needed legislation to make that uniform statewide.

## Obtaining Residential Information

This session, language from a bill I authored was placed in the budget to better track local revenue that comes in from within each county to ensure those funds are distributed more fairly throughout the county in the future.



# Bob Cherry

State Representative • House District 53

Important Contact Information for Representative Bob Cherry

Statehouse Office:  
800-382-9841

E-mail Address:  
[h53@iga.in.gov](mailto:h53@iga.in.gov)

Web site:  
[www.in.gov/h53](http://www.in.gov/h53)

Mailing Address:  
200 W.  
Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN  
46204